

Montana Department of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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Ravalli County Commissioners

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • [www.deq.state.mt.us](http://www.deq.state.mt.us)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)  
For Economic Stimulus Funds for SRF Programs**

A public hearing will be held in Helena Friday, March 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the Metcalf Building, (1520 East Sixth Ave.), room 111, to consider Proposed Project Priority Lists (PPLs) and Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for the Water Pollution Control and Drinking Water SRF programs. The IUPs identify the intended uses of funds in the loan programs and describe how the goals of the programs will be satisfied. The PPLs identify projects that are eligible to be funded with loan monies authorized and appropriated to the State of Montana by the ARRA.

Copies of both Intended Use Plans, which contain the priority lists, may be obtained from the DEQ, Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division, PO Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901, telephone (406) 444-6697 or on the Department web site at: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/iup-ppl.asp>.


Oral or written comments on the *Priority List* or *Intended Use Plans* may be presented at the public hearing or sent to Mark Smith, Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program Manager, or Paul LaVigne, Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Program Manager, PO Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901. Communities wanting to add their proposed drinking water or water pollution control projects to the Project Priority List should complete and submit the SRF survey form available at the website noted above. These comments and surveys must be received by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2009 for the WPCSRF Program and Friday, April 6, 2009 for the DWSRF Program.

**PLEASE NOTE: The ARRA funds are for eligible projects that are clearly ready to begin construction this construction season. In the vast majority of cases, if a project is not well into the design process, with ALL other funding secure at this time, it will not be considered for addition to the Priority Lists.**

The intent of DEQ is to be conservative in the selection of which projects will receive these funds so that neither the project or the program will be required to forfeit funds if a project is not under construction in the time required in the law. If all selected projects begin construction as required in the ARRA, Montana could be allocated an additional grant in one year, at which time DEQ hopes to be able to fund additional projects.

While there has been a lot of speculation with regard to how much ARRA money is available for water and wastewater projects, the reality is that the demand for the funds far exceeds the supply. As an example, there are approximately \$19 million available for projects in the WPCSRF program and currently there is a demand for over \$70 million in qualified projects.

The Department will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this hearing. If you need an accommodation, please contact the Department no later than March 17, 2009, to advise us of your need. Please contact Carol Gilmore, phone (406) 444-4643; fax (406) 444-6836; email [cgilmore@mt.gov](mailto:cgilmore@mt.gov).

  
Todd Teegarden, Bureau Chief  
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau  
Department of Environmental Quality

March 1, 2009